

R E M A R K S

Claims 15-34 are presented for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) on Lange et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,082); applicants note with appreciation that claims 16-33 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. U.S. Patents to Lange (U.S. Patent No. 4,493,004) and to Toda were cited, but not applied.

When the National Stage Application was filed on December 12, 2001, applicants submitted a proposed drawing correction for Fig. 3 and to add a Fig. 5A (see attached copy of the post card receipt). It is noted that the present Office Action is completely silent as to whether or not these drawing changes have been approved or even reviewed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate whether those changes are acceptable. In the event that the Examiner does not have a copy of the proposed changes, applicants ask that they be advised so that a second copy can be supplied.

By this amendment, a paragraph in the Substitute Specification has been amended to delete “, 50”, since this element number does not appear in any of the drawings. Claim 14 has been represented with substantial amendments as new claim 34 to distinguish over the prior art and, as a result of this, dependent claims 15, 16, 23 and 28 have been amended to be dependent upon the newly-presented independent claim 34.

In view of the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16-33, applicants do not believe that a discussion of these claims with regard to the prior art is necessary.

Claims 34 and 15 are patentable over the teachings of Lange et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,082) for the following reasons. As now presented, claim 34 states that each terminal is a clip tightly fitting the foot part, said clip embracing a part of the axial length of the ceramic insulator adjacent to the foot part, each clip having a terminal projecting radially outward and means being formed in each clip to cause the clip to be resilient in a circumferential direction. It is submitted that, contrary to the Examiner's statement that “said terminal (26) being a tightly fitting clip (13) having means to cause a clip to be resilient in the circumferential direction” is wrong. It is noted that contact rings 12 and 13 made of a

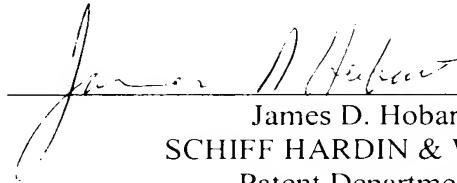
material having a special thermal expansion coefficient are also soldered to the soldering flanges, such as 3 and 6, of the two end electrodes. Thus, it is submitted that the ring 13 is not applicant's clip, such as shown by applicants' clip 2 (Fig. 1) or the clip 25 (Fig 6) having the end cap shape. It is also noted that claim 34 recites that the clip has a terminal projecting radially outward and means being formed in each clip to cause the clip to be resilient in a circumferential direction. It is submitted that the bands, such as 21 and 22, of Lange require bolts 26 and 27 to be clamped onto the electrode and ring 13 and, thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of the means being formed in each clip to cause the clip to be resilient in a circumferential direction to tightly fit the foot part. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 34 is clearly not anticipated or obvious in view of the teachings of Lange et al (5,768,082) and is allowable over the art of record.

It is submitted that claim 15, which is dependent on claim 34, is allowable for the reasons that claim 34 is allowable.

As noted hereinabove, claims 16-33 have already been indicated as containing allowable subject matter and, thus, it is submitted that claims 15-34 are clearly patentable over the references of record and are allowable.

In view of the amendments and explanations contained hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for immediate formal allowance and further reconsideration to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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